



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2007
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

CENTERVILLE BUSINESSMAN TO SERVE SIX-MONTH PRISON SENTENCE; FORFEIT HOUSE FOR EMPLOYING AND HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

DAY TON – Joseph Edward Fulmer, the owner of a Centerville store that sells and repairs sewing machines and related items, was sentenced in United States District Court here to six months imprisonment and ordered to forfeit his home worth approximately \$770,000 for crimes he committed involving the employment of illegal aliens. Fulmer's business was known as the Stitching Post.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Detroit, announced the sentence handed down yesterday by Senior United States District Judge Walter H. Rice.

In April, Fulmer pled guilty to a four-count information charging him with one count each of encouraging and inducing illegal aliens to come to the United States, harboring illegal aliens, fraud and misuse of government documents, and engaging in a pattern of employing illegal aliens.

According to a statement of facts filed with Fulmer's plea, Fulmer, age 47, began making regular trips from the United States to Mexico in March 2002 and approached Mexican nationals about working for him. He agreed to pay for at least four illegal aliens to travel from Texas to Dayton where he picked them up at the bus station and took them to his home. In March 2007, Fulmer took three illegal aliens on a Caribbean cruise knowing that at least one of them possessed and used fake identification documents to get back in the United States.

"Judge Rice noted that he has ordered jail time for aliens who have illegally entered the U.S., and he believes that those who enable illegal aliens to enter this country should be punished in a similar manner," Lockhart said.

"Businesses large or small need to understand that it will not be 'business as usual' if they chose to use illegal aliens as a part of their workforce," Moskowitz said.

Fulmer was also ordered to forfeit his 5,000 square-foot Centerville home which was used to facilitate the crimes and \$2,693 in currency seized by investigating agents. His sentence includes three years of supervised release, and 100 hours of community service. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons will determine a time for Fulmer to report for his imprisonment.

Lockhart commended the investigation conducted by ICE agents and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted the case.

#